

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano,

Thank you for your ongoing and diligent efforts to appropriately rebalance limited resources in order to support our nation's highest priorities. As you begin to craft the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriation bill for Fiscal Year 2018, we respectfully urge you to include sufficient funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs, in particular the COPS Hiring program. These programs are critical to ensuring that state and local law enforcement have the tools, personnel and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities, including in efforts to prevent further gun violence.

The Byrne JAG and COPS programs are the cornerstone of our federal justice assistance programs. Since their inception, the Byrne JAG and COPS programs have enabled law enforcement agencies to form vital partnerships among communities and law enforcement officers, combat criminal activities, and develop and implement problem-solving and crime prevention programs nationwide.

The strength of the Byrne JAG program is in its impact across the criminal justice system, from law enforcement to prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, program planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives. The COPS Office and its corresponding programs provide invaluable resources and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, keeping our communities safe. Sufficient funding is critical to ensuring that law enforcement has the resources necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the public, because in recent years law enforcement agencies have experience shrinking budgets and difficult decisions concerning operational readiness and number of officers on patrol.

We appreciate the difficulty you face in appropriating adequate resources for the programs under your jurisdiction, and we thank you for your work. Support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Hiring programs is imperative to the safety of our communities. These programs supplement the manpower and incentivize the collaboration across agencies necessary to build upon successful crime reduction efforts over the past 20 years. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you include strong funding for the Byrne JAG and COPS programs, especially the COPS Hiring program, in the FY2018 CJS appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



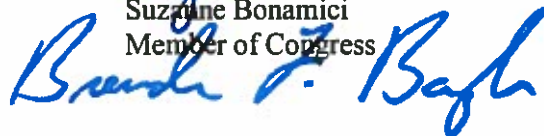
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



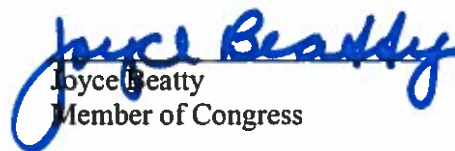
Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



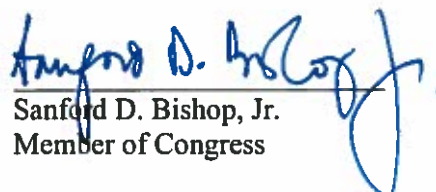
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



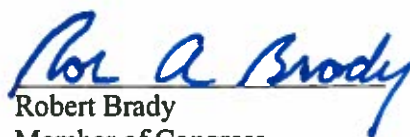
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



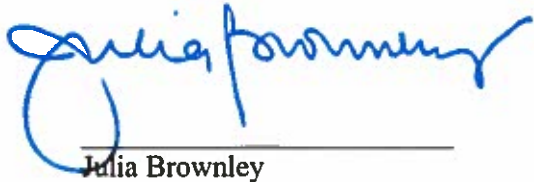
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



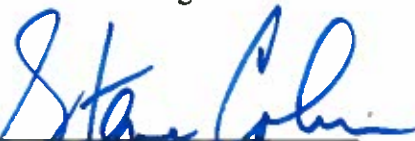
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



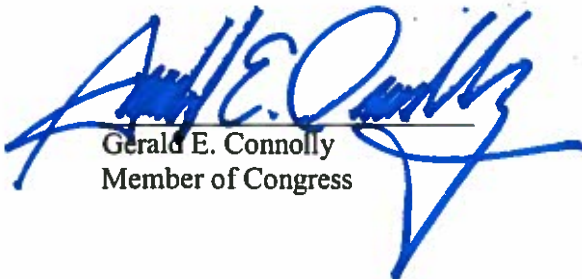
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



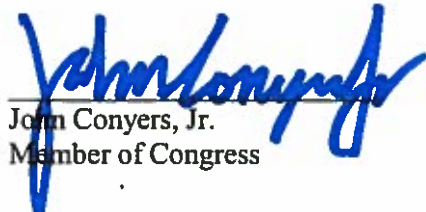
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



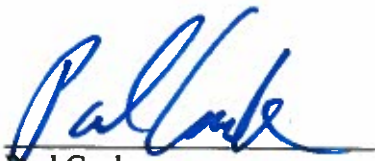
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress



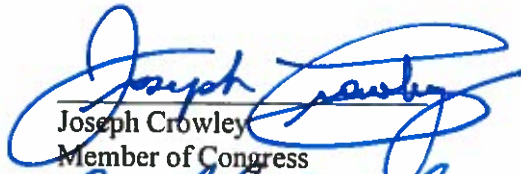
Jody Hice
Member of Congress



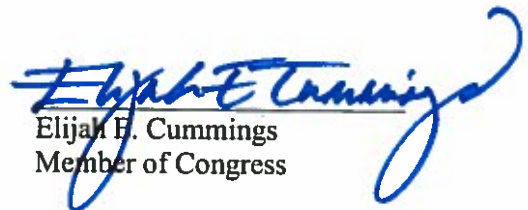
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



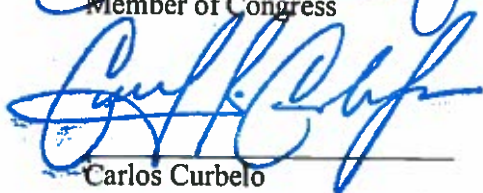
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



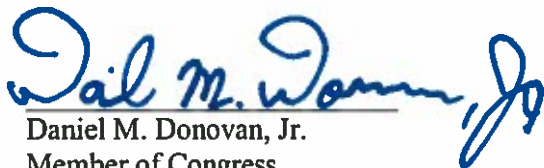
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



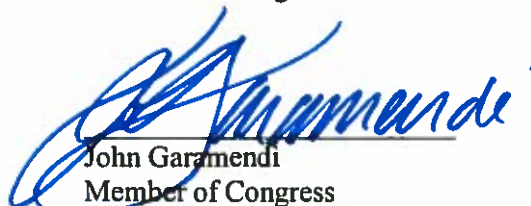
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



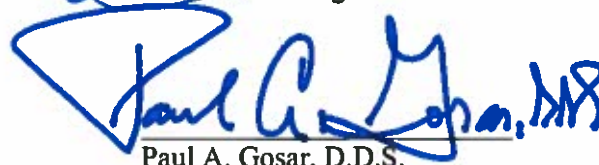
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



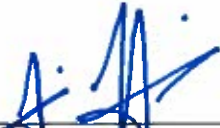
Gene Green
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



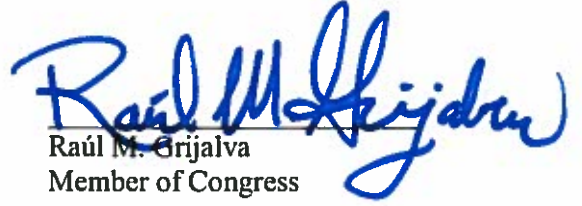
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress




Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

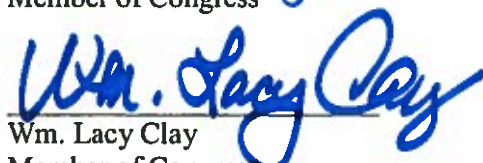

Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress


Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

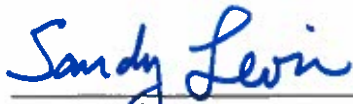

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


John Larson
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Sandy Levin
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



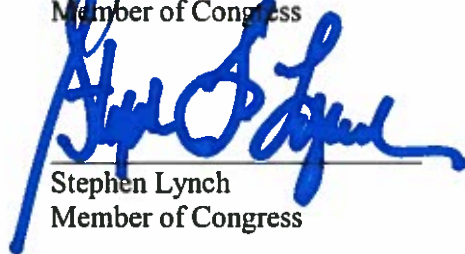
Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



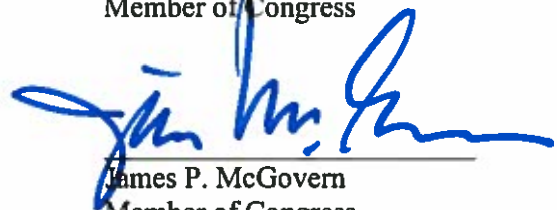
Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



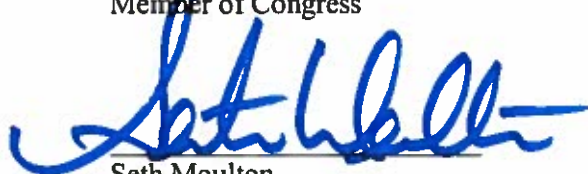
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



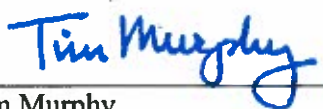
Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



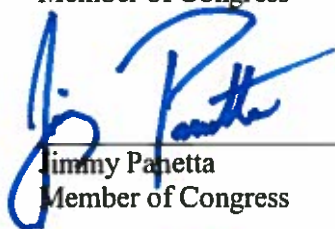
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



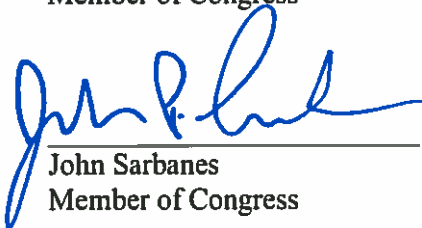
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



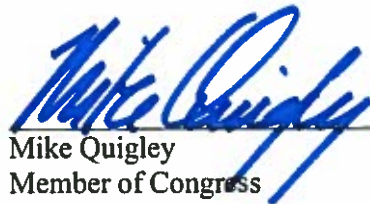
John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



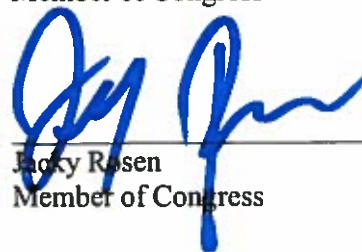
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress




David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress

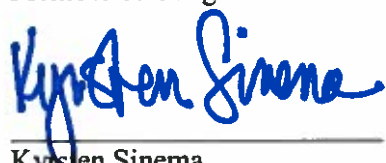

Robert "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

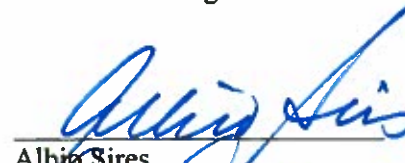

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress


Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

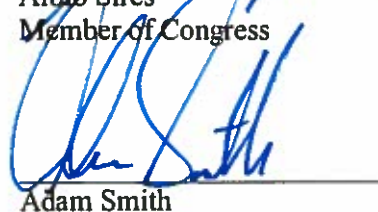

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

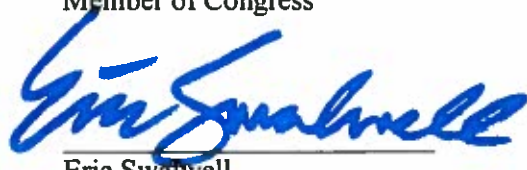

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Steve Silvers
Member of Congress


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

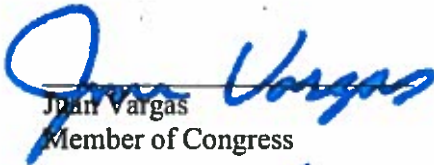

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress




Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



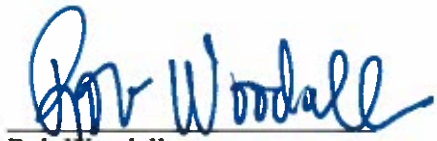
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



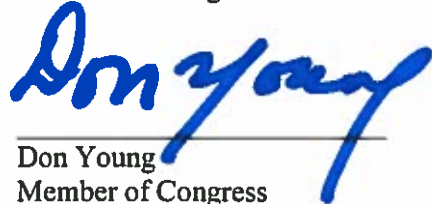
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress